

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

~~1~~ 18. (Thrice Amended) A method for preparing a physiologically compatible film, said method comprising:

mixing [pullulan] water soluble polymer and at least one stabilizing agent to provide a film-forming mixture;

dissolving water-soluble ingredients in water to provide an electrolyte containing aqueous solution;

combining said film-forming mixture and said aqueous solution to provide a hydrated polymer gel;

mixing oils to form an oil mixture that comprises at least tow essential oils selected from the group consisting of thymol, methyl salicylate, eucalyptol, and menthol;

adding said oil mixture to said hydrated polymer gel and mixing to provide a uniform gel;

casting the uniform gel on a substrate; and

drying the cast gel to provide said film that adheres to and dissolves in a consumer's mouth.

~~2~~ 19. (original) The method according to claim ~~18~~, wherein at least one surfactant is mixed into said oil mixture.

(canceled) 20. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the total amount of said oils in said oil mixture is at least about 5 wt % of the total weight of ingredients in said method.

~~3~~ 21. (original) The method according to claim ~~20~~, wherein said total amount of oils is at least about 15 wt %.

22. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said drying is conducted until said film has a moisture content of about 3 wt % to about 8 wt %.

23. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein, prior to being combined with said aqueous solution, said film-forming mixture is hydrated with water at a temperature of about 25 to about 50°C and subsequently chilled to a temperature of about 4 to about 30°C for about 2 to 48 hours.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Darryl C. Little on August 08, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In Claim 18, line 3, after the term 'agent', the phrase **"selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum, carrageenan, guar gum and mixtures thereof"** has been added.

In Claim 18, line 9, after the term 'least' the word "*tow*" has been replaced with the term **"two"**.

In Claim 18, line 10, after the term 'menthol', the phrase **" , wherein the total amount of said oils in said oil mixture is at least about 5 wt % of the total weight of ingredients"** has been added.

In Claim 18, line 13, after the term 'and' the term '*dissolves*' has been changed to **'dissolves'**.

In Claim 30, line 2, after the term 'pullulan', the term '*hydroxypropylmethyl*' has been changed to **'hydroxypropylmethyl'**.

Claim 20 has been cancelled.